

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-15, 17-23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 4,415,706 (Staas), is respectfully traversed. Staas discloses compatible blends of an imidized acrylic polymer containing at least 5% by weight glutarimide units, and a polyamide (Abstract). Staas discloses nothing about particles or particle size of their respective imidized acrylic polymer and polyamide. Melt blending thereof is disclosed (column 8, lines 48-51), but the physical form prior to blending is not. The present claims now require that the median grain size d_{50} of the particles of PMMI be within 20% of the median grain size d_{50} of the polyamide particles. (A similar limitation was made in the amendment filed June 27, 2005, which limitation was deleted in the amendment filed January 19, 2006.) There is no disclosure or suggestion in Staas that the particles therein meet the above-discussed median grain size limitation. Indeed, during an interview held May 9, 2005, the Examiner indicated that various prior art rejections, including one over Staas, would be overcome by the insertion of this limitation. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 2004/0137228 (Monsheimer et al), is respectfully traversed. Monsheimer et al discloses three-dimensional objects obtained by a process of selective inhibition of bonding (SIB) of pulverulent materials having a median particle size of from 10 to 200 μm of at least one polymer or copolymer selected from a Markush group of polymers and copolymers, including polyamides and PMMI ([0013]). Monsheimer et al discloses that the preferred pulverulent material comprises a polyamide ([0045]). No examples of a mixture of polyamide and a PMMI are disclosed, nor are any particular PMMI compositions disclosed. Thus, Monsheimer et al neither discloses nor suggests a PMMI having the constituents recited in the present claims. At best, therefore,

Monsheimer et al is available under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). However, Applicants' Assignee represents that at the time the presently-claimed invention was made, it and Monsheimer et al were commonly owned. Thus, Monsheimer et al is removed as prior art pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

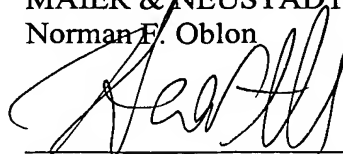
The rejection of Claims 10-12, 16, and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Staas and Monsheimer et al, is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, Monsheimer et al is not prior art herein. The rejected claims are patentable over Staas, for the same reasons discussed above with regard to the rejection over Staas alone. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The provisional rejection of Claims 19, 23, and 24-25 on grounds of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 22-24 of co-pending Application No. 10/655,472 (co-pending application), is respectfully traversed. **Submitted herewith** is a Terminal Disclaimer over the co-pending application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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